accordance with the Policy, mining in Iron ore sector has been opened up for private investment including Foreign Direct Investment.

(d) The policy envisages that foreign trade of minerals will keep in view the mineral inventory position and the long-term need of the country. Wherever, exports take place these should be competitive and efforts will be directed towards exports of minerals in value added form to the extent possible.

Reservation of Iron Ore for PSUs

437. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the known reserves of iron ore in the country, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain proportion of these ore being reserved for Central PSUs and the State PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Iron Ore

†438. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the deposits of the iron ore in the country there may arise the crisis of raw material before the steel producing projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the deposits of the iron ore in the country at present; and

(d) the annual likely demand of the steel of this steel producing projects in the country during the ensuing 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per Indian Bureau of Mines the estimated reserves of iron ore, based on UNFC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

classification, were 22 billion tonnes as on 1.4.2000. It is estimated that based on a steel production target of 110 million tonnes by 2020, these reserves should last for 125 years. Besides with increased mining and exploration activity, the proven reserves are likely to increase. As such no crisis with regards to iron ore availability for steel producers is anticipated.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The deposits of iron ore based on UNCF classification as on 1.4.2000 is as mentioned below:

(Unit : 000 tonnes)

Grade	Resource as on 1.4.2000
Haematite	11,425,788
Magnetite	10,682, 207
TOTAL:	22,107,995

Source : Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur

(d) The National Steel Polilcy estimates that domestic steel demand will increase to 90 million tonnes per year by 2019-20 while production will increase to 110 mt.

MoU with M/s Mittal Steel

439. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an MoU was recently signed with M/s Mittal Steel for a Rs. 40,000 crores — 2 million tonnes Greenfield steel plants to be set up at Ranchi ;

(b) if so, the main terms of the agreements indicating the phases in which the plants is to be set up; and

(c) how the deal favourably compares with the POSCO plant's deal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.